To:

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (CHAPTER I OR CHAPTER II OF THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY)

WEISS, Peter 4, Zeppelinstrasse 78234 Engen **ALLEMAGNE** (PCT Rules 44bis.3(c) and 72.2) Patentanwälle DR. P. WEISS & DIPL-ING. A. BRECHT EINGANG Date of mailing (day/month/year) 28 December 2006 (28.12.2006) Applicant's or agent's file reference Vortrist IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION...... P 3088/PCT W/HU FRIST. International application No. International filing date (day/month/year) PCT/EP2005/000202 12 January 2005 (12.01.2005) HERMLE LABORTECHNIK GMBH et al

| | Thomasittal | - C 47 | 4 | 4. | 47 |
|----|-------------|--------|-------------|----|----------------|
| ι. | Transmittai | or me | translation | to | the applicant. |

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I).

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the designated or elected Offices.

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Applicant

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3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned within the applicable time limit (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.

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Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

TRANSLATION INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

| | 's or agent's file reference 88/PCT_ W/ | | FOR FURTHER | ACTION | See Form PCT/IPEA/416 | | |
|---|---|------------------|--|----------------------------|---|----|--|
| | nal application No. | | International filing of | iate (day/month/year) | Priority date (day/month/year) | | |
| | | | 12.01.20 | | 14.01.2004 | | |
| | nal Patent Classification | | onal classification and | d IPC | | | |
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| Applicant | | | | | | | |
| HERM | LE LABORTE | CHNIK G | MBH | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. | | | | | | |
| 2. ′ | This REPORT consists | of a total of _ | 4 | sheets, includi | ng this cover sheet. | | |
| 3. | This report is also accor | npanied by Al | NEXES, comprising | g; | | | |
| | a. (sent to the | applicant and i | to the International B | ureau) a total of 4 | sheets, as follows: | | |
| | sheets | of the descript | ion, claims and/or dr | awings which have been | amended and are the basis for this report and/o | | |
| | sheets Instruc | | tifications authorized | by this Authority (see R | tule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrativ | ve | |
| | sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental | | | | | | |
| | Box. | | | | | | |
| | b (sent to the l | International B | Gureau only) a total of | f (indicate type and numb | er of electronic carrier(s)) | | |
| | , containing a sequence listing and/or tables | | | | | | |
| | | | readable form only, ative Instructions). | as indicated in the Suppl | emental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (se | e | |
| 4. 1 | This report contains ind | ications relatin | g to the following ite | ms: | | | |
| , [| Box No. I | Basis of the | report | | | | |
| | Box No. II | Priority | | | | | |
| [| Box No. III | Non-establis | hment of opinion wit | h regard to novelty, inver | ntive step and industrial applicability | | |
| | Box No. IV | Lack of unity | of invention | | | | |
| . [| Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement | | | | | | |
| | Box No. VI | Certain docu | | | | | |
| | Box No. VII | Certain defec | ets in the internationa | l application | | | |
| | Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application | | | | | | |
| Date of sul | bmission of the demand | | | Date of completion of the | his report | | |
| 200 OI 301 | ommonon or the demand | • | | 2 or completion of the | | | |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP | | | | Authorized officer | | | |
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| Facsimile No. | | | | Telephone No. | | | |

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/EP2005/000202

| Box | x No. I | Basis of the report | | |
|-----|----------------------|--|--|---|
| 1. | | egard to the language, this report is based on the internation ed under this item. | al application in the language in | which it was filed, unless otherwise |
| | | This report is based on translations from the original languag which is the language of a translation furnished for the purpo | | • |
| | | international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)) | | • |
| | Ļ | publication of the international application (Rule 12.4) | | |
| | <u> </u> | international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/o | | |
| 2. | receivin this rep | | eport is based on (replacement : referred to in this report as "o | sheets which have been furnished to the riginally filed" and are not annexed to |
| | | he international application as originally filed/furnished he description: | | |
| | | | | as originally filed/furnished |
| | - | ages 2,5-9 | | 10.11.2005 with letter |
| | _ | ages* 1,3,4 | | OF 08.11.2005 |
| | pa | ages* | received by this Authority on | |
| | th | he claims: | | |
| | no | ios. | | as originally filed/furnished |
| | no | OS.* | as amended (togethe | r with any statement) under Article 19 10.11.2005 with letter |
| | nc | os.* <u>1-5</u> | received by this Authority on | |
| | nc | os.* | received by this Authority on | |
| | th th | he drawings: | | |
| | sh | heets 1/1 | | as originally filed/furnished |
| | sh | heets* | received by this Authority on | |
| | sh | heets* | received by this Authority on | |
| | □ a : | sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Suppleme | ntal Box Relating to Sequence L | isting. |
| 3. | | The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: | | |
| ٥. | | the description, pages | | |
| | Ė | the claims, nos. | 12.400 | |
| | [| | | |
| | | | A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A | |
| | L | | | |
| _ | | any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): | 1 | |
| 4. | L | This report has been established as if (some of) the amenda they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as file | nents annexed to this report and ed, as indicated in the Supplemen | tal Box (Rule 70.2(c)). |
| | | the description, pages | | |
| | Ļ | the claims, nos. | | |
| | L | the drawings, sheets/figs | | |
| | | the sequence listing (specify): | | |
| | | any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): | | |
| * | If item 4 | 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "super | rseded." | |

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No. PCT/EP2005/000202

| | | | | rticle 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; pporting such statement | |
|----|------------------------------------|---|--------|---|-----|
| 1. | Statement | | | | |
| | Novelty (N |) | Claims | 1-5 | YES |
| | | | Claims | | NO |
| | Inventive step (IS) | | Claims | 1-5 | YES |
| | | | Claims | | NO |
| | Industrial applicability (IA) Clai | | Claims | 1-5 | YES |
| | | | Claims | | NO |
| | | | | | |

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: EP-A-0 714 324 (BECKMAN INSTRUMENTS, INC;
BECKMAN COULTER, INC) 5 June 1996
(1996-06-05)

D2: DE 38 18 594 A1 (BERTHOLD HERMLE GMBH & CO, 7209 GOSHEIM, DE) 7 December 1989 (1989-12-07)

Document D1 is considered the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1 and discloses (the references between parentheses refer to that document; see paragraphs [0013]-[0041], claims 1-4, figures 1 and 2) a centrifuge, from which the subject matter of claim 1 differs in that a groove for accommodating the transponder is introduced into the lower plane surface of the rotor. The subject matter of claim 1 is thus novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

The present invention can therefore be considered to address the problem of devising a simple, secure and protected way in which to reliably

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Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

recognise the rotor

The solution to that problem as proposed in claim 1 of the present application involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) for the following reasons: according to the teaching of document D1, the transponder is arranged above the rotor in the rotor cover and the fastening knob of the rotor. There is also nothing in D1 to suggest placing the transponder on the underside of the rotor so as to arrive at the claimed centrifuge. Although document D2 discloses rotor-specific optically or magnetically scannable markings on the underside of the rotor, D2 does not mention a transponder or the accommodation thereof in a groove in the rotor.

Claims 2-5 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.